

THE REBEL READING SOCIETY

Author Spotlight



K.R Thompson

When did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

I've always loved writing stories and poetry, so I knew early on in primary school that I'd love to be an author when I grew up. However, authors never visited my schools, so authors remained mysterious, magnificent story creators in my mind – not something I truly believed I could do. It was only when I stepped back from my legal career after the birth of my first child, that I rediscovered my love of children's books and decided to be brave and try to make my childhood dream a reality.



Did you read lots as a child – if you did, where did you mainly read? If you didn't, what was the reason?

I read a huge amount as a child. My mum would take us to the library every Saturday and I would leave with armfuls of books that would last me half the week. Then I'd be counting down the days until our next library trip! I read anywhere and everywhere – on holidays my parents had to tell me to stop reading and engage with the real world from time to time!

What was your favourite book as a child and why?

This is such a tricky question! *Charlotte's Web* was the first book I read that really impacted me emotionally. However, *Lord of the Rings* was my favourite book – I first read it when I was 7 years old (it took me a long time!) and I read it over and over again. It was the book that started my lifelong love of fantasy stories.



How does it feel to see your books in shops and being sold?

It's a bubbly, gleeful, 'pinch me' moment every time!

What is the best part about being an author?

I love the creative process. My longer books are set in a fantasy world, so I had oodles of fun dreaming up the magical, quirky places that my characters would visit. It's also huge fun when characters I've created surprise me by doing something different to what I'd originally planned!

What are the 'not so fun bits' in being an author?

When a book you've written is published, it's like putting a piece of your heart out into the world to be judged... and not everyone will like it. Bad reviews, poor sales, and comparing yourself to the success of other authors can make you feel like you're not doing a good enough job.

Why do you think it is important for children to read?

Because reading is tremendous fun! Reading allows us to step outside of whatever is going on in our lives and go on adventures, travel, meet different characters, experience new feelings and feel less alone. And we can do all of this for free, thanks to our amazing libraries.

What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

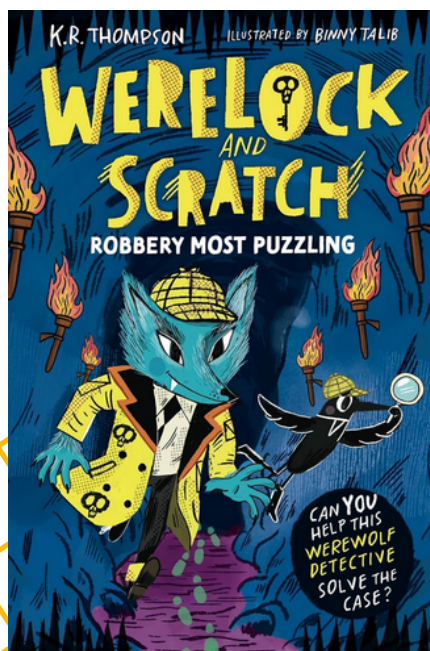
For me, inspiration can come from anywhere - a news article, something my children say, nature. However, for Werelock and Scratch I set out to create books I would have loved to read as a child, so I drew on my love of fantasy books, crime thrillers and Indiana Jones-style treasure hunt adventures!

Who gives you feedback on your drafts and how do you act on the feedback?

My husband and youngest son usually read the first draft together at bedtime. This means I get the tired parent feedback as well as younger reader comments. An early comment from my son on book three of the Werelock and Scratch series (publishing in September) meant that I hurriedly re-wrote the solution to the mystery, which made it 100% better!



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More Info



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Finally, if you could read for an hour, on your own, anywhere in the world - where would it be?

I love Scotland, so I'd read curled up on a comfy sofa, under a blanket, in front of a crackling fireplace in a cosy cabin nestled in the snowy highlands. And since I'm the one creating this idyllic reading nook, I'd also make it Christmas time, with twinkling fairy lights and a steaming mug of hot chocolate. Bliss.